

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /058 W
-----014147 061110Z /17

P 050900Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2884
USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MASERU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DURBAN 0216

CAPE TOWN FOR DCM; PRETORIA FOR CAO

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, PEPR, SF, LT, US
SUBJ: S.A. POLICE LEARN OF KHOAPA'S DEPARTURE AND OUR
DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM

REF: A) MASERU 752 (NOTAL); B. DURBAN 0217; C. DURBAN 206
(NOTAL)

1. REF A REPORTED THAT BENNIE KHOAPA, BANNED FORMER EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF BLACK COMMUNITY PROGRAMS (BCP), HAD ARRIVED IN
MASERU AND REQUESTED REFUGEE STATUS FROM THE GOL. POST
PROVIDED BACKGROUND ON KHOAPA TO MASERU BY SEPTTEL (DETAILS
ALREADY KNOWN TO OTHER ADDRESSEES).

2. DURBAN ATTORNEY H.J. BHENGU, DETAINED MARCH 30-31 BY
SECURITY POLICE FOR QUESTIONING ON A VARIETY OF MATTERS (REF
B), TOLD CONGENOFF APRIL 4 THAT THE POLICE ARE AWARE KHOAPA
HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH US RE A POSSIBLE U.S. SCHOLARSHIP.
BHENGU SAID POLICE QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF
KHOAPA'S DEPARTURE AND ASKED WHAT ROLE THE U.S. SCHOLARSHIP
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PLAYED IN DECISION TO FLEE S.A. AND WHAT TYPE SCHOLARSHIP
WAS OFFERED. BHENGU CLAIMED ALL HE KNEW WAS THAT POSSIBILITY
WAS DISCUSSED OF PLACEMENT FOR KHOAPA IN U.S. GRADUATE SCHOOL
IN SEPTEMBER 1978, MONTH AFTER KHOAPA'S BANNING ORDER WAS
SCHEDULED TO BE LIFTED. BHENGU CLAIMS HE DID NOT SAY
SCHOLARSHIP WAS A MOTIVATING FACTOR IN KHOAPA'S DECISION
TO DECAMP.

3. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW EXTENSIVE POLICE INFORMATION IS RE OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH KHOAPA NOR HOW THEY MAY UTILIZE IT. PRESS HAS STILL NOT REPORTED KHOAPA'S FLIGHT BUT SERVICES HERE OR IN LESOTHO COULD BREAK STORY OR, ALTERNATIVELY, POLICE COULD LEAK IT FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES. IF QUERIED BY PRESS, WE INTEND TO COMMENT IN AS LIMITED AS POSSIBLE FASHION ALONG LINES OF FOLLOWING (UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES OBJECTION):

QTE: DEPARTURE OF KHOAPA FROM S.A. WAS HIS OWN DECISION IN WHICH USG PLAYED NO ROLE. WE HAD DISCUSSED WITH HIM THE POSSIBILITY OF A U.S. SCHOLARSHIP AFTER HIS BANNING ORDER EXPIRED IN AUGUST 1978. THIS POSSIBILITY WAS NOT FINALIZED AND NO COMMITMENT WAS MADE PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE. END QTE.
FARBER

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Message Attributes

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